

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in reply to the office action of August 30, 2006. A petition and fee for a three (3) month time extension are enclosed, making this response due on February 30, 2007.

In paragraph 4 of the office action, claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by US 5,536,562.

Applicants disagree with this rejection. Firstly, the '562 patent does not relate to a fired, porous ceramic casting core and instead involves a fibrous ceramic perform for making an ablator. There is no teaching of any kind in the '562 patent regarding a ceramic casting core having a configuration to form an interior surface of a metallic casting. Secondly, the '562 patent immerses a ceramic fibrous perform in a low boiling point solvent in which an organic resin infiltrant is completely dissolved (see patent column 11, lines 3-5 and lines 63-67) in a manner that teaches away from Applicants' claims 12-14 as amended above.

The '562 patent thus fails to disclose pending claims 12-14.

Reconsideration of the Section 102 rejection is requested.

USSN 10/785,669

In paragraph 5 of the office action, claims 12, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by US 5,460,854.

Claim 12 is believed to clearly distinguish over the '854 patent, which impregnates a ceramic core with an aqueous solution of water-soluble gum, resin, or sugar.

The '854 patent does not disclose a fired, porous ceramic casting core including an aqueous emulsion of a water-insoluble polymer in pores of the core before drying.

The '854 patent thus on its face fails to disclose Applicants' claims 12, 13, and 15.

Reconsideration of the Section 102 rejection is requested.

In paragraph 6 of the office action, claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by US 5,173,421.

Applicants disagree with this rejection. Firstly, the '421 patent does not relate to a fired, porous ceramic casting core and instead involves a ceramic foam cell culture carrier. There is no teaching of any kind in the '421 patent regarding a ceramic casting core having a configuration to form an interior surface of a metallic casting. Secondly, the '421 patent coats or soaks a ceramic foam culture carrier in a liquid which can include monomers [(meth)acrylic acid ester and/or (meth)acrylamide] dissolved in a diluent (see patent column 4, lines 59-60) in a manner that teaches away from Applicants' claims 12-15 as amended above.

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The '421 patent thus fails to disclose pending claims 12-14.

Reconsideration of the Section 102 rejection is requested.

Applicants believe the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and action to that end is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Edward J. Timmer', followed by a horizontal line.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service under 37 CFR 1.8 as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 26, 2007.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Edward J. Timmer', followed by a horizontal line.

Edward J. Timmer